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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/414,307	10/06/1999	DAVID W. RITTER	MLNR-07100	3112

28960 7590 10/23/2002
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EXAMINER

AN, SHAWN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/414,307

Applicant(s)
David Ritter et al.

Examiner
Shawn An

Art Unit
2613



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 and 33-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 32 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 32, line 3, "a." and line 5, "b." can not use the '.' unless the period is used as an end of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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4. Claims 1-3, 10-12, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ely (5,982,418).

Regarding claims 1, 10, and 26, Ely discloses an apparatus/method for receiving video signals from video cameras, comprising:

a selector (Fig. 2, 104 and 112) having a plurality of inputs (114) wherein each input receives one of a plurality of video signals;

a video decoder (118) coupled to the selector for receiving a selected one (command from HOST) of the plurality of video signals; and

a controller (104) coupled to the video decoder for conditioning the video decoder according to a parameter (col. 9, lines 6-15).

Regarding claims 2-3 and 11-12, Ely discloses a memory device for storing parameter in a storage location (col. 3, lines 37-46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-7, 10-18, 22-23, 26-31, 33-39, and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper et al (5,870,139).

Regarding claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 26, and 37, Cooper et al discloses an apparatus/method for receiving video signals from video cameras, comprising:

a selector/multiplexer (Fig. 2,240) having a plurality of inputs wherein each input receives one of a plurality of video signals (211-214);

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a video decoder (233) for receiving/retrieving a plurality of video signals; and
a controller (200) coupled to the video decoder for conditioning the video decoder
according to a parameter, and initializing and obtaining an initial value upon a start
up during a first cycle wherein a video frame is captures from each camera.

Even though the video decoder is not coupled to a selector to receive a selected video signal,
it would have been quite obvious for the video decoder to be coupled to a selector for receiving a
selected video signal in order to decode/encode the selected video signal.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant
art employing an apparatus/method for receiving video signals from video cameras as taught by
Cooper et al to modify the position/function of the decoder such that the decoder is
coupled to a selector for receiving the selected video signal in order to decode/encode the
selected video signal.

Regarding claims 2-3 and 11-12, Cooper et al discloses a memory device (buffer) for
storing parameter in a storage location (Fig. 2, 271) associated with the corresponding camera.

Regarding claims 4 and 13, Cooper et al discloses a parameter (230) being a selected
one of a plurality of stored parameters (231a, 231b).

Regarding claims 5 and 14, it would have been considered an obvious feature, if the
parameter was found in the decoder rather than in the timing control which comprises the decoder
as long as an end result is substantially the same.

Regarding claims 7, 16, and 39, Cooper et al discloses a horizontal frequency (231b) of
video signal.

Regarding claims 17-18, it is well known in the art for such device as a genlock block to
perform a horizontal phase of video signal for synchronizing the timing.

Regarding claims 22 and 43, it is well known in the art to utilize gain level for the video
signal (see Holmes, brief summary).

Regarding claims 23 and 44, Cooper et al discloses dc clamping level (250).

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Regarding claims 27 and 28, Cooper et al discloses capturing and storing a video frame from the selected one of video cameras (291 and 271, respectively).

Regarding claim 29, Cooper et al discloses a cycle of selecting, retrieving, conditioning, and capturing as underlined in claims 26 and 29 above.

Regarding claims 30-31 and 33-36, Cooper et al discloses updating and storing (600) parameter forming a predicted value, and selecting a next one of the cameras according to a sequence (Fig. 1, V & H Drive).

Regarding claim 38, it is considered a simple design choice for a step of initializing the apparatus upon start-up by performing two cycles through all of the cameras, wherein a video frame is captured from each camera upon completion of the two cycles so as to save processing time for updating in case of an urgent/priority image/video processing.

7. Claims 8-9 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper et al as applied to claims 1 and 10 above, respectively, and further in view of Vincent (5,436,659).

Regarding claims 8 and 24, Cooper et al fails to disclose the decoder comprising a genlock block.

However, Vincent teaches a conventional genlock block (Fig. 2A, 100) for synchronizing the timing generated by ASIC to an image signal from an external source such as a video camera.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art employing an apparatus/method for receiving video signals from video cameras as taught by Cooper et al to incorporate the conventional concept of genlock block as taught by Vincent for synchronizing the timing generated by an image signal from a video camera.

Regarding claims 9 and 25, Vincent discloses ADC (Fig. 1, 24) for converting video signals into a series of digital samples and performing sampling according to pulses received from the timing generator (18).

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8. Claims 19-21 and 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper et al as applied to claims 10 and 26 above, respectively, and further in view of Holmes (4,167,021).

Regarding claims 19-21 and 40-42, Cooper et al does not specifically disclose chrominance frequency and phase of the video signal.

However, Holmes teaches conventionally well known chrominance frequency and phase of the video signal (abs.; Fig. 1, 12) for improving the quality of color video signals.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art employing an apparatus/method for receiving video signals from video cameras as taught by Cooper et al to incorporate the conventional concept of as chrominance frequency and phase of the video signal taught by Holmes for improving the quality of color of video signals.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. **Claim 32** is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 26, but would be allowable: if claim 32 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 26 and any intervening claims. Dependent claim 32 recite the novel features of:

forming a predicted value for the parameter comprising the steps of;

- a) calculating a difference between prior value obtained for the parameter and a current value obtained for the parameter; and
- b) combining the difference with the current value.

Accordingly, if the amendments are made to the claims listed above, and if rejected claims are canceled, the application would be placed in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

- A) Tanaka et al (6,208,376), Communication system and method and storage medium for storing programs in communication system.
- B) Voois et al (6,124,882), Video communicating apparatus and method therefor.

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawn An whose telephone number (703) 305-0099 and schedule are Tuesday through Friday.



SHAWN S. AN
PATENT EXAMINER

SSA

October 20, 2002